

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
NEWBURY LIBRARY-MEDIA CENTER
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
DECEMBER 13, 2017 – 6 p.m.

Approved 1/10/18

PRESENT: Chair Ms. Molly Sexton Read (B), Vice-Chair Mr. Robert Jerram (NH), Secretary/Treasurer Mr. Noel Gauthier (NH), Ms. Mary Duran (B), Ms. Deborah Bell (N), Ms. Theresa Kenneson (C), Ms. Lisa Fragale (C), Superintendent Dr. Judith Palmer, Director of Finance & Operations Mr. James Gaskins, High School Principal Mr. Ken Chichester, Middle School Principal Mr. Fran Amara, Student Representatives Mr. Zachary Austin, and Ms. April Ruopp

ABSENT: Ms. Katherine Vandiver (N)

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Sexton Read called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

PUBLIC PORTION: None.

J. DEZURIK: Director of Guidance, Johanna DeZurik, provided the Board with a presentation pertaining to School Counseling with an overview of department responsibilities, philosophy, and mission. High School and Middle School program highlights, and post-secondary destination information was provided. Questions and discussion followed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Mr. Gauthier, seconded by Mr. Jerram, to **APPROVE** Board of Education Minutes of November 8, 2017, with the following change: correct spelling of Ms. Ruopp’s name in Student Representative report section. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. Abstain: Ms. Duran.

REPORTS:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Ms. Ruopp provided updates pertaining to: student council turkey basket activities, blood drive success, Pajama Day fund raiser, committees for student council increasing productivity, red army spirit club to increase game attendance, and national honor society induction. Mr. Austin updated the Board on winter sports, Veteran’s Day Breakfast, Mr. Masi’s vice-principal on the year award, counselor meeting update, SAT classes, efforts to reunite the red army, Valerie Manor visit, Mock Trial Team, seniors vs. teacher volleyball game. Questions and discussion followed.

PRINCIPAL CHICHESTER: Mr. Chichester provided updates pertaining to: PSAT results, new high school course offerings, Career Day, upcoming parent events, Christmas concert, and shared a letter received from American Legion Post regarding the Veteran’s Day Breakfast. Questions and discussion followed.

PRINCIPAL AMARA: Mr. Amara provided updates on the district’s professional learning, parent teacher conferences, Red Angels, and holiday letters written by Middle School students.

SUPERINTENDENT PALMER: Dr. Palmer provided a Legislative update pertaining to High School Reform, State budget update with possible consequences, and budget meeting with representatives of the four towns to discuss 2018-19 budget proposal held last week. Ms. Sexton Read provided additional information and details pertaining to that meeting and based on state and local finances, the representatives requested no increase to Regional School District No. 7’s 2018-19 budget. Questions and discussion followed.

Further, Dr. Palmer provided a brief overview of ADA requirements for the school website to become effective, January 18, 2018. Marketing ideas work with Mr. Torrant continues, and possible new tag line of “Forward.Thinking.Smart.” Discussion followed. Additionally, Dr. Palmer offered sincere congratulations to Mr. Masi for being chosen by the Connecticut Association of Schools selection committee to be Connecticut’s candidate for the NASSP National Assistant Principal of the Year Award.

Dr. Palmer advised of new Special Education teacher hire, Amy Bardino, to replace Val Teggi this January. Ms. Bardino comes to Regional School District No. 7 highly recommended.

DIRECTOR GASKINS: Mr. Gaskins advised and updated the Board on this year's budget and special education concerns with fiscal responsibility exhibited throughout the building during the 2017-2018 school year. Hope Carfiro has been hired in the Business Office to perform Payroll and Student Activity functions, and will be starting Monday, December 18, 2017. Mr. Gaskins advised also that the audit draft copy should be completed by end of week for final draft to be submitted to the State, and winter weather update with custodial unit and snow plow operations for safe travel and footing on school property. Due to recent legislation, Teacher Retirement contributions have increased by 1 percent beginning January 1, 2018. Also, Mr. Gaskins advise of Cafeteria Union negotiations beginning in January, 2018. Questions and discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS UPDATES: Ms. Sexton Read advised of meeting with town of Barkhamsted community member, Mr. Tom Palmer, providing him with public information and discussing his concerns with allocations and transparency in the budget process.

NEW BUSINESS:

BUDGET TIMELINE 2018-2019 DRAFT:

Ms. Sexton Read provided an overview of the Budget Development Timeline for the 2018-2019 school year; discussion and questions followed, and changes were made to dates within the draft copy.

MOTION by Mr. Jerram, seconded by Ms. Kenneson, to **APPROVE the** Budget Timeline with changes for the 2018-2019 school year. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Kenneson Ms. Bell, Ms. Fragale, Ms. Duran. NAY: None. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Board budget discussion followed.

PUBLIC: None.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION by Ms. Kenneson, seconded by Ms. Fragale, to **ADJOURN** at 7:50 p.m. AYE: Ms. Sexton Read, Mr. Jerram, Mr. Gauthier, Ms. Duran, Ms. Bell, Ms. Kenneson, Ms. Fragale. NAY: None. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted:

Lisa H. D'Aprile
Board Clerk